United Nations A/C.2/56/L.40

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
29 November 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 102
Implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on this topic

Islamic Republic of Iran:* draft resolution

Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling relevant resolutions on human settlements, in particular its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 34/115 of 14 December 1979,

Recalling further the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[1] and the Habitat Agenda,[2]

Aware of rapid urbanization trends in developing countries and associated new challenges in shelter provision, eradicating poverty and sustainable human settlements development,

Convinced of the need for urgent action to advance the quality of life of all peoples in cities and other human settlements,

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda within the United Nations system,

Recognizing that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels, to enhance the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly in developing countries with a view to improving the quality of life in human settlements,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

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Recalling, inter alia, government commitments to promoting broad access to appropriate housing financing, to increasing the supply of affordable housing, and to creating an enabling environment for economic and social development that will attract investment,

Recalling also its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, in which the Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed the designation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as a focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and called for a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the Centre with a view to its revitalization,

Recalling further its resolutions 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 55/195 of 20 December 2000 in which it requested the Secretary-General to consider further strengthening the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) through the provision of the requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources, including additional regular budget and human resources,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council of 2000,[3]

Bearing in mind Administrative Committee on Coordination decision 1983/12 of 22 October 1983, paragraphs 224 and 229 of the Habitat Agenda, paragraph 66 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session,[4] and conclusions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001,[5] regarding improving inter-agency coordination in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, in particular, paragraph 67 inviting the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on options for reviewing and strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and function of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Encouraged by the resumption of voluntary contributions by several Member States to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in response to the work undertaken by the management of Habitat to reverse the decline of the Centre and give it a new impetus to advance the Habitat Agenda under revitalization,

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Options for reviewing and strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and function of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)",[6] including their financial implications,

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[3] See A/55/3, chap. V.

[4] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[5] See A/56/3, chap. IX, sect. C.

[6] A/56/618.

I. United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Decides to transform the Commission on Human Settlements and its Secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, including its Foundation, with effect from 1 January 2002, into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to be known as UN-Habitat, which will have the following elements:

A
Governing body
Status, composition, objectives, functions and responsibilities

1. *Decides* to transform, with effect from 1 January 2002, the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly;[7]

2. *Decides also* that the Governing Council shall be composed of 58 members to be elected by the General Assembly for four-year terms on the following basis:

(a) Sixteen seats for African States;

(b) Thirteen seats for Asian and Pacific States;

(c) Six seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Thirteen seats for Western European States and others;

3. *Confirms* that the Governing Council will have the objectives, functions and responsibilities as contained in paragraph 222 of the Habitat Agenda and paragraph 66 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

4. *Decides* that the Governing Council will be the sole intergovernmental body within the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for policy deliberation and decision-making on human settlements;

5. *Decides also* that the Governing Council shall meet biennually and report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

6. *Decides further* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to Habitat will serve as the Governing Council's formal intersessional subsidiary body;

B
Secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

1. *Decides* to transform, with effect from 1 January 2002, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) into the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. The UN-Habitat secretariat shall service the Governing Council and serve as the focal point for human settlements and for the coordination of human settlements activities within the United Nations system;

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[7] There will be a paragraph on the rules of procedure after a briefing by the Secretariat.

2. *Decides also* that the UN-Habitat secretariat shall continue to be headed by an Executive Director at the level of Under-Secretary-General, to be elected by the General Assembly for a term of four years on nomination by the Secretary-General;

3. *Confirms* that the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, under the direction of the Executive Director, shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the responsibilities contained in paragraph 228 of the Habitat Agenda;

4. *Affirms* that the Urban Forum and the advisory committee of local authorities, being advisory bodies to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, will only extend advice to the Executive Director and should not substitute for or interfere with any intergovernmental policy-making activities of the Governing Council;

5. *Decides* that the resources for managing the Programme shall comprise the posts and budgetary resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements without prejudice to any additional regular budget or extrabudgetary resources that may become available;

II. Financing of human settlements

1. *Confirms* that the Executive Director of UN-Habitat shall be responsible for the management of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation with due regard to the terms of reference of the Foundation as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX);

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to revitalize the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in order to achieve its primary objective of supporting shelter, related infrastructure development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms in developing countries;

3. *Invites* all Governments to increase their contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in order to enhance the capacity of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

4. *Authorizes* the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to launch fresh fund-raising appeals and initiatives in order to substantially increase the Foundation's resources;

5. *Calls* for the active participation and collaboration of the agencies and bodies within and outside the United Nation system and regional development banks in the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and its Foundation, particularly with regard to the provision of seed capital and the financing of operational human settlements projects and programmes;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through the provision of adequate regular budget resources;

III. Policy coordination

1. *Reaffirms* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, together with the Governing Council, constitute the intergovernmental mechanism that will oversee the coordination of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to recognize the role and importance of shelter and sustainable human settlements in the activities and programmes of the United Nations system, particularly in the context of Common Country Assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as the poverty reduction strategy papers led by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;

3. *Decides* that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as United Nations focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, will participate in the Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

4. *Decides also* that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme should maintain linkage with the Commission on Sustainable Development in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as it relates to sustainable development;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.